

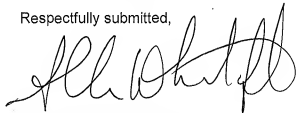
REMARKS

Applicants have amended claim 31 to define that the inner pore structure defines pores with inner surfaces, wherein said inner surfaces are coated at least partly with a layer of a second perfluorinated surface-active substance different from said first electrolyte, which is then contained in the pores with the coated inner surfaces. Applicants contend that this amendment clarifies that it is the inner surface of the pores that is coated with the second electrolyte. This clearly distinguishes the cited art wherein two separate composite structures each containing a single electrolyte are laminated together.

Addressing the Examiner's statement that "lamination is a coating operation and in the case of the prior art, the lamination of a second carrier layer of ePTFE material as taught by Branca et al. reads on applicants limitation of 'wherein said surfaces are coated at least partly with a layer of a second perfluorinated surface-active substance different from said first electrolyte,'" (Office Action at page 4), Applicants contend that such lamination would not in fact coat the inner surfaces of the pores as now specified in claim 31.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claim is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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